MARVEL
DAREDEVIL
60¢
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214
JAN
SYNN... NO MORE!

Stan Lee presents

THE CRUMBLING

CONCLUDING THE WAR ON MICAH SYNN

STORY DENNY O'NEIL

ART DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI

LETTERING JOE ROSEN
COLORING CHRISTIE SHEELE
EDITOR RALPH MACCHIO
SUPERVISION JIM SHOOTER

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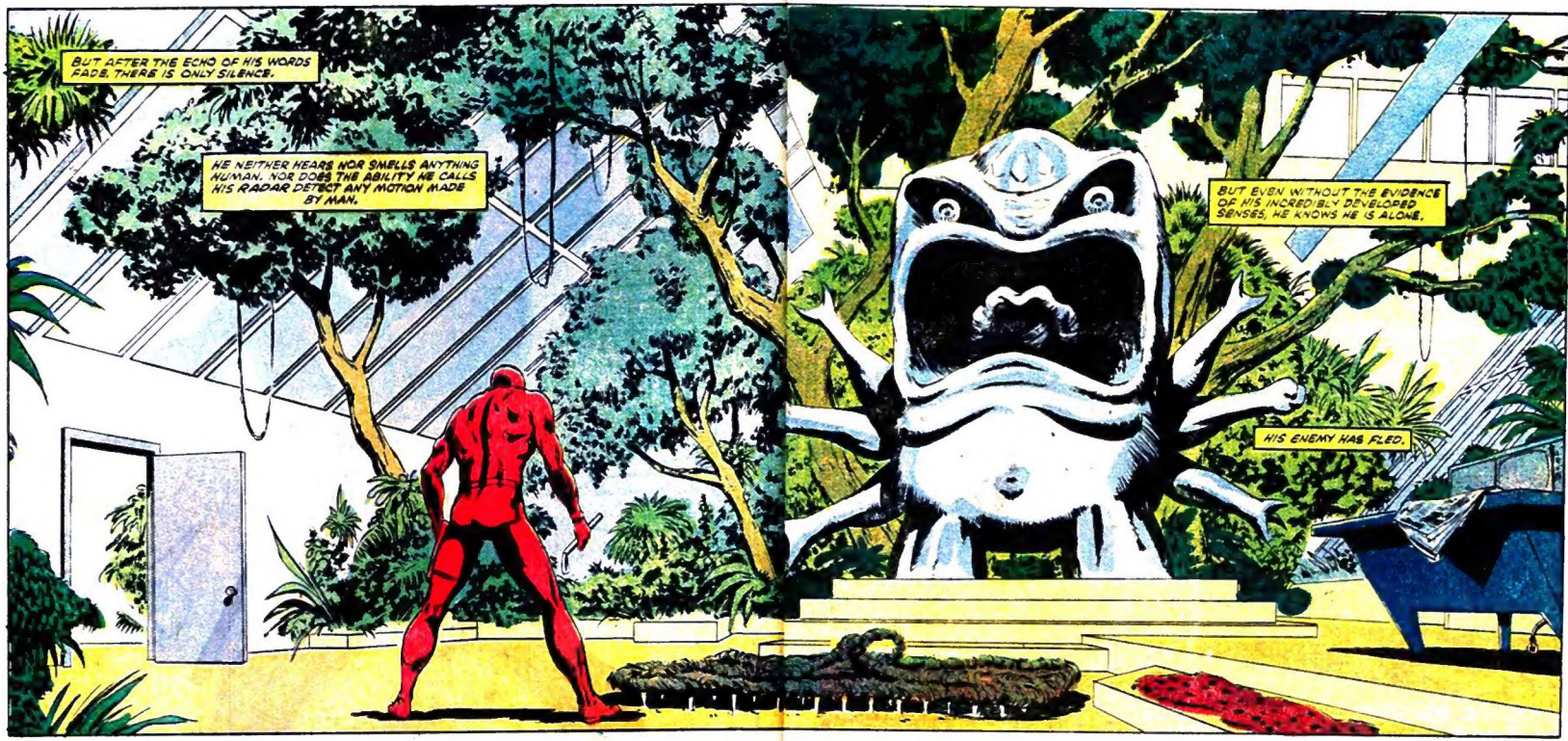
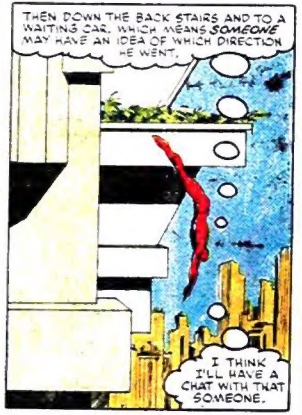

BUT AFTER THE ECHO OF HIS WORDS FADE, THERE IS ONLY SILENCE.
HE NEITHER HEARS NOR SMELLS ANYTHING HUMAN. NOR DOES THE ABILITY HE CALLS HIS RADAR DETECT ANY MOTION MADE BY MAN.
BUT EVEN WITHOUT THE EVIDENCE OF HIS INCREDIBLY DEVELOPED SENSES, HE KNOWS HE IS ALONE.
HIS ENEMY HAS FLED.

HE HAD TO HAVE BEEN HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO. HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR--!

TO THE ROOF?

NO.


THEN DOWN THE BACK STAIRS AND TO A WAITING CAR, WHICH MEANS SOMEONE MAY HAVE AN IDEA OF WHICH DIRECTION HE WENT.
I THINK I'LL HAVE A CHAT WITH THAT SOMEONE.

ON THE STREET BELOW...
THAT'S RIGHT, MICAH SYNN KILLED PROFESSOR PIPER. OR AT LEAST HIS MEN DID.
YOU TELL THEM, FRANKLIN.

TELL THEM WHAT THAT...THAT CREATURE DID TO ME!
AND WHAT WAS THAT, MRS. NELSON?
HE KEPT ME A PRISONER--

--HE HUMILIATED ME TO DEATH! HE MADE ME WORK...LIKE A SLAVE--! IT WAS AWFUL!

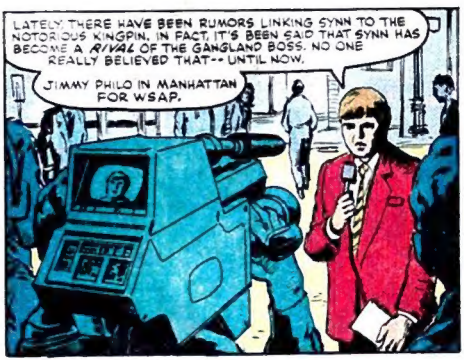
MR. NELSON, A FEW WEEKS AGO YOUR SECRETARY--MS. BLAKE--ACCUSED SYNN OF MURDERING A YOUNG WOMAN. AT THE TIME YOU SAID SHE WAS LYING. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THAT NOW?
BECKY BLAKE DIDN'T LIE.

I DID.

PLEASE... WE HAVE TO GO.
TAXI

OKAY, BEFORE WE HEAD BACK, LET'S SHOOT MY STAND-UP.
HEY, JIMMY... IT'S GONNA RAIN.
LET IT. BE MORE DRAMATIC.

CERTAINLY A STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS IN THE SAGA OF CHIEF MICAH SYNN AND THE KINGORGE. AS YOU MAY RECALL, THE KINGORGE ARE DESCENDANTS OF A PARTY OF ENGLISH EXPLORERS LOST IN AFRICA CENTURIES AGO. THEY ARRIVED IN NEW YORK LAST YEAR AND BECAME THE DARLINGS OF THE SMART SET.


LATELY THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS LINKING SYNN TO THE NOTORIOUS KINGPIN. IN FACT, IT'S BEEN SAID THAT SYNN HAS BECOME A *RIVAL* OF THE GANGLAND BOSS. NO ONE REALLY BELIEVED THAT-- UNTIL NOW.
JIMMY PHILO IN MANHATTAN FOR WSAP.

THAT'S A WRAP, GUYS.
IT DIDN'T START RAINING AFTER ALL.
TOO BAD.

AND NEARBY...
...THEN THEY DROVE AWAY, BOSS. YOU OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO GET A LINE ON 'EM.

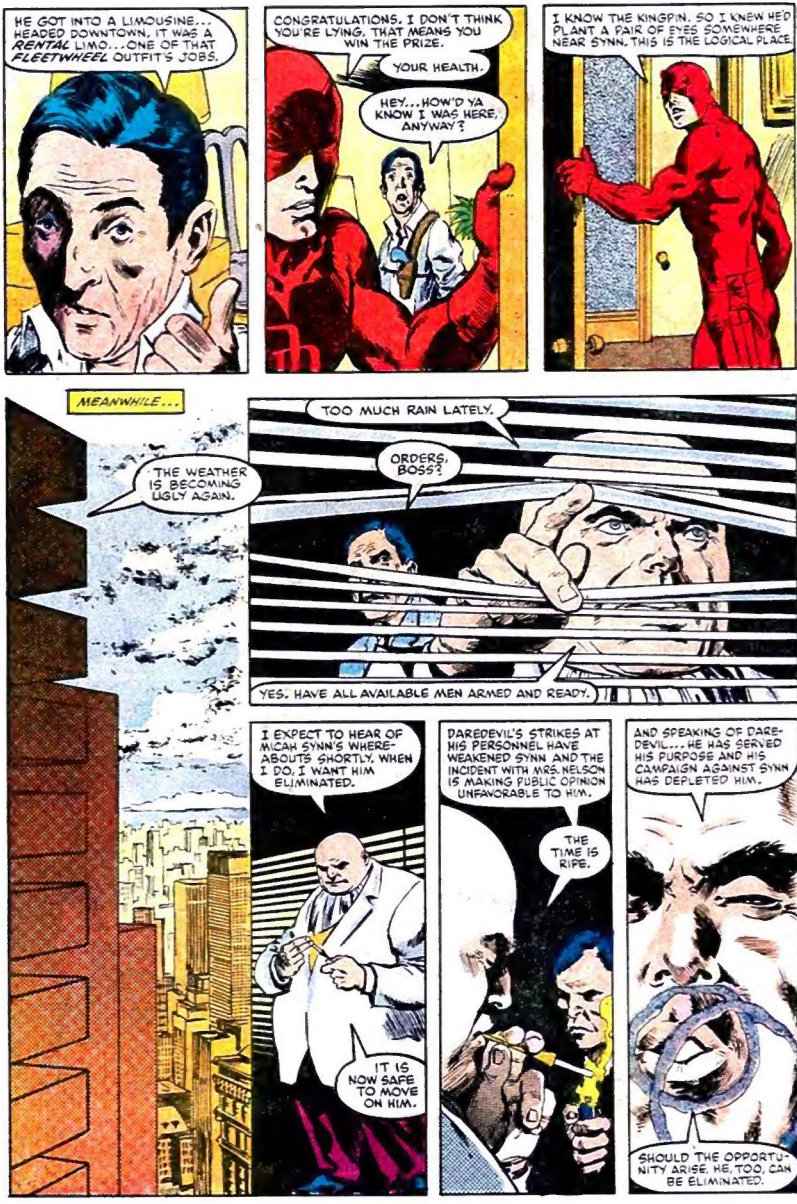
REPORTING TO THE KINGPIN?

DAREDEVIL!
YOU WANT TO PUT THAT GUN AWAY--

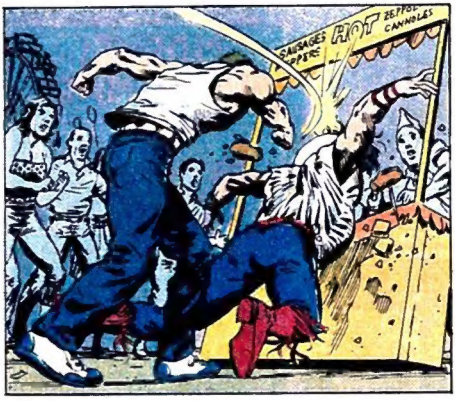
--OR DO YOU WANT TO EAT IT?

NO.

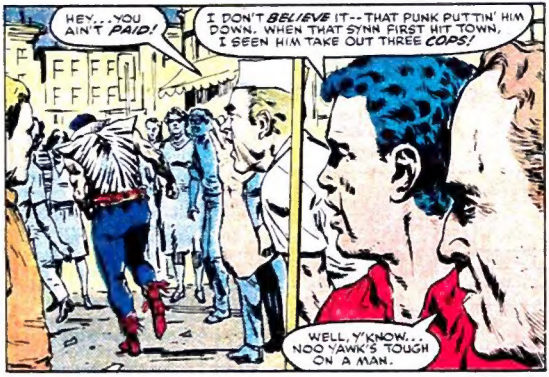
THAT'S SMART. NOW, TALK TO ME. YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON SYNN FOR WEEKS --FOR THE KINGPIN. YOU SAW WHERE HE WENT.


HE GOT INTO A LIMOUSINE... HEADED DOWNTOWN, IT WAS A RENTAL LIMO...ONE OF THAT FLEETWHEEL OUTFIT'S JOBS.
CONGRATULATIONS. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LYING. THAT MEANS YOU WIN THE PRIZE.
YOUR HEALTH.
HEY...HOW'D YA KNOW I WAS HERE, ANYWAY?
I KNOW THE KINGPIN. SO I KNEW HE'D PLANT A PAIR OF EYES SOMEWHERE NEAR SYNN. THIS IS THE LOGICAL PLACE.
MEANWHILE...
THE WEATHER IS BECOMING UGLY AGAIN.
TOO MUCH RAIN LATELY.
ORDERS, BOSS?
YES. HAVE ALL AVAILABLE MEN ARMED AND READY.
I EXPECT TO HEAR OF MICAH SYNN'S WHEREABOUTS SHORTLY. WHEN I DO, I WANT HIM ELIMINATED.
IT IS NOW SAFE TO MOVE ON HIM.
DAREDEVIL'S STRIKES AT HIS PERSONNEL HAVE WEAKENED SYNN AND THE INCIDENT WITH MRS. NELSON IS MAKING PUBLIC OPINION UNFAVORABLE TO HIM.
THE TIME IS RIPE.
AND SPEAKING OF DAREDEVIL... HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE AND HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYNN HAS DEPLETED HIM.
SHOULD THE OPPORTUNITY ARISE, HE, TOO, CAN BE ELIMINATED.

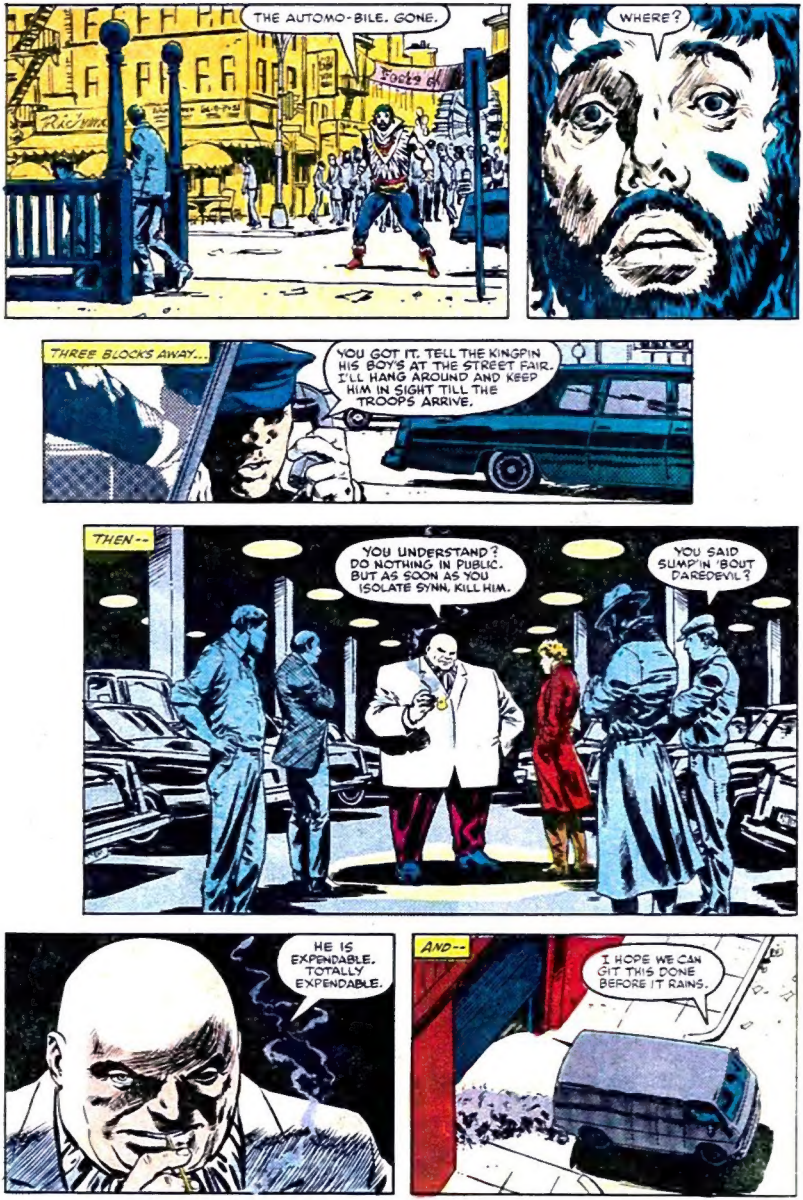
AT THAT MOMENT...
Festa di San R
STOP!
HOT!
STREET CLOSED
WAIT FOR ME.
YOU GOT IT, MR. SYNN.
AIN'T THAT THAT AFRICAN DUDE?
LOOKS LIKE.
FOOD.
I AM HUNGRY!
WATCH WHO YER SHOVIN'!
YOU GONNA PAY FOR THAT, FANCY-PANTS?
I AIN'T GONNA LET 'IM GET AWAY WITH IT!


SAUSAGES
PEPPERS
HOT
ZEPPOLI
CANNOLES

I...I HURT YOU LATER!
SURE YOU WILL!


HEY...YOU AIN'T PAID!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT--THAT PUNK PUTTIN' HIM DOWN. WHEN THAT SYNN FIRST HIT TOWN, I SEEN HIM TAKE OUT THREE COPS!
WELL, Y'KNOW... NOO YAWK'S TOUGH ON A MAN.

GONNA RAIN.


THE AUTOMO-BILE. GONE.
WHERE?
THREE BLOCKS AWAY...
YOU GOT IT. TELL THE KINGPIN HIS BOYS AT THE STREET FAIR. I'LL HANG AROUND AND KEEP HIM IN SIGHT TILL THE TROOPS ARRIVE.
THEN--
YOU UNDERSTAND? DO NOTHING IN PUBLIC. BUT AS SOON AS YOU ISOLATE SYNN, KILL HIM.
YOU SAID SUMP'IN 'BOUT DAREDEVIL?
HE IS EXPENDABLE. TOTALLY EXPENDABLE.
AND--
I HOPE WE CAN GIT THIS DONE BEFORE IT RAINS.

WHASSA MATTER, YOU SCARED YOU'LL MELT?
YOU NEW? I DON'T REMEMBER SEEIN' YOU.
I JUST GOT IN FROM DETROIT.
AIN'T THAT HIM?
YEAH.
HE'S HEADIN' FOR THEM BURNED-OUT TENEMENTS.
PERFECT FOR US.
NOBODY'S LOOKIN'. I CAN NAIL HIM FROM HERE.
BLAM
A GUN-SHOT. THEY ARE CHASING ME!

HE AIN'T ONE OF US. HE'S--
...DAREDEVIL?
UMGHF
NOW YOU.

Y-YOU GOT NO GRIPE WITH ME. I'M JUST A DRIVER.
YOU'LL DELIVER A MESSAGE. YOU'LL TELL THE KINGPIN I WENT AFTER MICAH SYNN FOR MY REASONS. NOT HIS.

AND I'LL DEAL WITH MICAH MY WAY. I WON'T HAVE HIM SHOT DOWN LIKE AN ANIMAL. THAT'S HOW MICAH HIMSELF WOULD DO IT.
MICAH AND THE KINGPIN. THEY'RE REALLY NOT MUCH DIFFERENT.
BUT I AM. SO MICAH WILL FACE MY KIND OF JUSTICE.

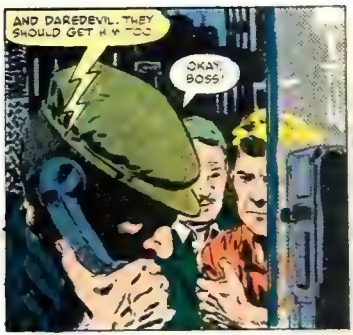
OH, ONE MORE THING. TELL THE KINGPIN THAT I OVERHEARD HIM ORDERING MY ELIMINATION. I DON'T THINK THAT WAS VERY NICE. I DON'T LIKE THAT.
I PLAN TO DEMONSTRATE HOW MUCH I DON'T LIKE IT.
SOON.

GROUND'S NOT RADIATING HEAT. AIR'S CHILLY. MUST BE GETTING DARK.
GOOD. DARKNESS IS MY ELEMENT.
BUILDINGS AHEAD.

NO SOUND OF HUMAN ACTIVITY. SMELL OF DECAY. BREEZE COMING IRREGULARLY--THROUGH HOLES AND CRACKS IN WALLS.
THIS MUST BE THE AREA THAT CONTRACTOR STARTED TO RENOVATE--BEFORE HE RAN OUT OF MONEY.
TERRIBLE, OPPRESSIVE SENSE OF EMPTINESS... OF DESPAIR.
HE IS SIGHTLESS. SOMETIMES, IT IS NOT A DISADVANTAGE.

ELSEWHERE--
YOU STILL ON TOP OF THAT SYNN STORY, JIMMY?
YOU JUST BET I AM.
WSAP
DUG UP A LOT OF BACKGROUND. THERE'S A LOT TO OUR NOBLE SAVAGE THAT I DIDN'T KNOW.
FOR STARTERS HE ISN'T SO NOBLE.
SEEMS HE GOT INTO A MAJOR HASSLE WITH A BUNCH OF NEW YORK'S FINEST THE FIRST WEEK HE HIT TOWN.
LATER, HE TRIED TO PITCH ONE OF THEM OUT A WINDOW.
THE COP SAYS DAREDEVIL SHOWED UP IN TIME TO DISCOURAGE OUR MICAH.
THAT WASN'T HIS LAST RUN-IN WITH DAREDEVIL, EITHER--
--'CAUSE AT A PARTY THE NELSONS GAVE HE THREW DAREDEVIL OFF A ROOFTOP.
OBVIOUSLY THE GUY'S GOT A THING FOR TOSSING PEOPLE FROM HIGH PLACES.
ANYWAY, HE AND DAREDEVIL WENT AT IT AGAIN LAST CHRISTMAS AT MATT MURDOCK'S HOUSE.

BECKY BLAKE SAYS THAT MICAH WAS BEATING DAREDEVIL TO A PULP--
-- UNTIL THE KINGPIN WALKED OUT OF A SNOWSTORM AND STOPPED HIM.
BAD FELLA. YET THE FASHIONABLE TYPES AROUND THE CITY ADORED HIM. GUESS THEY'LL ADORE ANYTHING THAT'S NEW.
HEY YOU CAN'T BLAME EM FACE IT--HE'S ONE MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN..
WHILE...
PAIN. SICK.
LIGHT. FIRE IN THE HOUSE. WARMTH. I WILL FEEL BETTER THERE.
AND...
...INFORM THEM THAT IF THEY FAIL AGAIN, IT WILL BE THEIR FINAL FAILURE.
I WANT MICAH SYNN DEAD!


AND DAREDEVIL. THEY SHOULD GET H M TOO
OKAY, BOSS!

HE SAYS WE'RE GRASS AND HE'S THE LAWNMOWER. UNLESS WE DO THE JOB

WE BETTER GET STARTED.
DAREDEVIL SHOULDN'TA HIT ME SO HARD. I'M HURTIN'.
ME TOO.
NOT AS BAD AS YOU'LL BE HURTIN' WHEN THE BOSS GETS DONE WITH YOU.
AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CIVILIANS. NOBODY COMES INTO THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ANY-MORE. THEY'D BE CRAZY TO

AND...
YEH, BO, C MON IN.

SIT YERSELF DOWN BY THE FIRE
I'LL ARM YEZ BONES

FOOD!
HELP Y'SELF.
LEMME DO THE INTROS. I'M SARGE--
--AND THIS HERE'S THE LOOT. AND THAT'S WALTER.
WE WAS PO-LICEMEN
'CEPT ME.
I WAS A DEPUTY MAYOR.
WE WAS KICKED OUT.
IT WASN'T FAIR.
THAT THING AROUND YER NECK--
--IS THAT REAL GOLD?
RAIN?
KRESH

FINISH HIM. WE'LL TAKE HIS GOLD.
HIS CLOTHES.
ANY MONEY HE'S GOT.

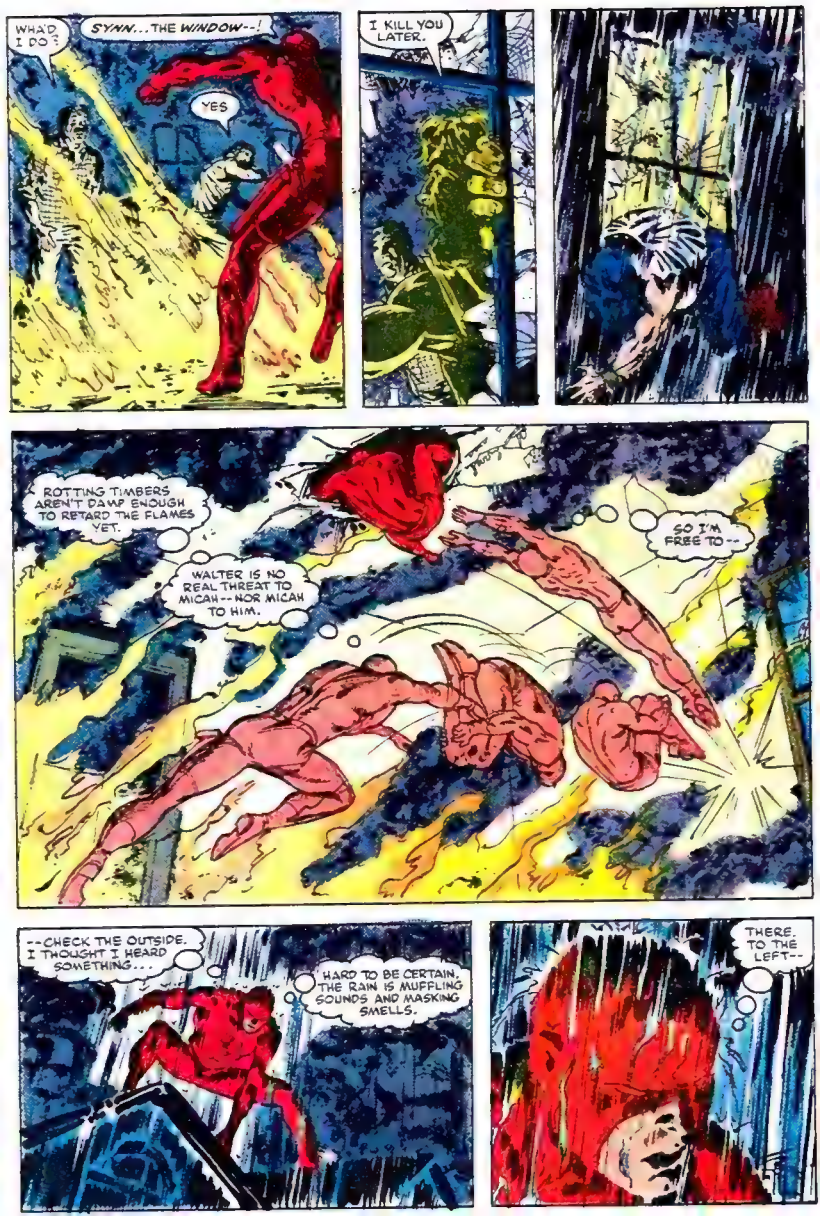
PUT IT DOWN

NOW!
WHO IS THAT?
WHO CARES?
GET HIM.

WE'LL TAKE HIS CLOTHES.
ANY MONEY HES--

GHAHH

TSOK
DON'T TOUCH ME. 'CAUSE THIS BOTTLE IS FULLA GAS WE STARTED THE FIRE WITH... AND I'LL DROP IT AND THE WHOLE PLACE'LL BLOW UP.
SCARE ME.
BREKCH
--AND...
FWA-WHOOSH
FOR AN INSTANT THERE IS THE STINGING ODOR OF GASOLINE--


WHA'D I DO?
SYNN... THE WINDOW--!
YES
I KILL YOU LATER.
ROTTING TIMBERS AREN'T DAMP ENOUGH TO RETARD THE FLAMES YET.
WALTER IS NO REAL THREAT TO MICAH -- NOR MICAH TO HIM.
SO I'M FREE TO --
--CHECK THE OUTSIDE. I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING...
HARD TO BE CERTAIN. THE RAIN IS MUFFLING SOUNDS AND MASKING SMELLS.
THERE. TO THE LEFT--

I SEE YA SYNN! AN YA KNOW WHAT?
YOU'RE DEAD!
BLAM
IT'S DAREDEVIL!
DON'T MISS HIM AGAIN!

KWAR
KWOK
BLAM
BLAM
FWHING
FWHING
BLAM
FWHING
SMOKE... RAIN... HARD TO SEE.
WHERE'D HE GO?
THODD
YOUR TURN, SYNN! DO YOU WANT TO FACE ME? OR DO I COME AFTER YOU?
DECIDE.

LATER, DAREDEVIL WILL REALIZE WHAT HAPPENED.
HE WILL REALIZE THAT THE CHANGE FROM THE HARSHEST POVERTY OF MICHSYNN'S ARRICAN HOME TO THE ABUNDANCE OF NEW YORK CITY WAS TOO MUCH.
DIFFERENT FOOD, DIFFERENT AIR, DIFFERENT LIFESTYLE--AND AN EXCESS OF EVERYTHING.
A LOT OF IT WAS BAD, ALL OF IT WAS TOO MUCH.
BUT THAT WILL BE LATER. AT THE MOMENT, HE DOES NOT EVEN TRY TO UNDERSTAND. HE MERELY WAITS, FEELING A CHILL THAT SEEMS TO COME FROM THE VERY CENTER OF HIS BEING...
...AND HE HEARS A VOICE THAT IS OLD AND FRAIL AND FULL OF TERROR...
HELP ME
end

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: editor-BOB HARRAS: assistant editor

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Marvel,

I just wrote to say that I enjoyed issue #210 of DAREDEVIL. The art and the storyline were superb.

Because I don't know much about the Kingpin, I have to ask one question. How can such a fat person lift his leg as high as he did on page 12, panel 3?

David Morgan
Almaggordo, NM

David, Kingpin's mass is muscle, not fat — like a sumo wrestler. And the Kingpin is well trained in sumo wrestling and other forms of personal combat which employ the flexibility the Kingpin demonstrated while battling Micah Synn's henchmen.

Dear Daredevil Crew,

DAREDEVIL #210 was emotionally satisfying and artistically beautiful. While reading page 8, I could feel the anger and frustration building in Matt Murdock as Micah Synn was stealing his brand-new scarf. I can hardly wait until Daredevil settles all scores with Chief Micah.

I have just one question about issue #210. How come the Kingpin hid in the back of his truck to personally ambush the hijackers? I didn't expect this of the Kingpin. He normally delegates that type of action to his hired thugs. I think he acted out of character in that instance.

Dave Mione
(No address given)

It is true, Dave, that the Kingpin does have his lackeys take care of most of his dirty work. But, he also has a reputation for doing the unexpected, thus keeping his enemies off balance at all times. In the instance you mention, the last thing the hijackers expected to see was the massive figure of the Kingpin coming out at them when the cargo door was opened on the truck. It was effective, right?

Dear Editor,

At long last we get to see the Kingpin of Crime flex his muscles. His fight scenes in issue #210 certainly added to the overall excitement of the issue. I was getting tired of seeing the Kingpin sitting on the sidelines while his stooges did all of his dirty work. Hopefully, this will lead to a confrontation between Kingpin and Micah Synn.

Don Pawl
Norridge, IL 60656

Guys, why are all these letters about the Kingpin? Doesn't anybody write into us about Daredevil anymore? You remember Daredevil — tall guy, great hearing, nice red longjohns. Sure, we've gotten plenty of letters asking us to explain why D.D. wasn't involved in the greatest sensation of the decade — MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS limited series. Still that's no reason to snub the guy in his *own* magazine.

Dear Marvel,

I must congratulate you on two more fantastic issues of DAREDEVIL. Issues #209 and #210 were well-written and beautifully illustrated from cover to cover. I especially enjoyed the flashbacks to Matt Murdock's childhood in issue #209. They help me understand why Daredevil became the heroic and noble man that I've come to admire.

Robert Rivera
New York, N.Y. 10033

One for Daredevil at last. Thanks, Robert, now we don't have to change the title of the mag to: *Kingpin — the Humongous Guy Without Fear.*

Dear Daredevilers,

DAREDEVIL #210 was a classic. I loved every page. Speaking of classics — the combination of Denny O'Neil and David Mazzucchelli is the team to top all creative teams. I'm looking forward to more brilliant work from them.

One of the things I like best about Daredevil is that he can get himself out of any situation using finesse, and not only relying on brute strength.

Kyle Costello
Bethel Park, PA

Dear Marvel Editors,

I found DAREDEVIL #210 to be full of surprises. I was surprised to see Micah Synn team up with his former nemesis — Crossbow. I was also surprised to see Daredevil risk his life when he thought that Micah Synn's life was in danger. When is he going to learn to stop protecting his enemies?

Then, when the police burst in on page 21 and ordered Daredevil to stop, I was surprised to see him obey the police so easily. I didn't expect him to leave without getting his revenge on Micah and Crossbow. I at least expected D.D. to pull a Spider-Man stunt and make a flashy escape.

Mike Dolan
Wall, N.J.

Mike, we are surprised that you were surprised. After all Daredevil isn't the type to flagrantly break the law. And let us not forget DD's alter-ego Matthew Murdock, *Attorney-at-law*.

Next Issue: **The strangest guest-star you've ever seen in these pages, in a truly bizarre tale you won't soon forget. D.D. gets involved in a centuries old mystery whose solution may be beyond both the legal talents of Matt Murdock and the acrobatic abilities of his alter-ego. That's *DAREDEVIL* #215. See you in thirty, swashbucklers.**